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Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 SCA-01 DHA-02 ORM-02

INSE-00 AID-05 /047 W
---------- 090467
R 071130Z APR 76
FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3589
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY ROME

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ROME FOR INS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CVIS, GW, SREF
SUBJ: REFUGEES FROM USSR AND KURDISH REFUGEE PROGRAM

1. ON APRIL 2, 1976, TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM UNHCR (GENEVA AND BONN) AND ONE ICEM REPRESENTATIVE (BONN) VISITED CONGEN FRANKFURT TO DISCUSS LOCAL PROCESSING OF KURDISH REFUGEES. MEETING WAS PROMPTED BY FACT THAT SPOUSES AND CHILDREN AMONG THE REFUGEES WILL BE PROCESSED UNDER IMMIGRANT VISA PROCEDURES WITH WHICH VISITORS WERE UNFAMILIAR. DPO AND VISA OFFICER, TOGETHER WITH INS OFFICERS AT POST, PARTICIPATED IN MEETING. SALIENT POINTS OF DISCUSSION FOLLOW.

2. KURDISH REFUGEES ARE ALL NATIVE OF IRAQ, ALTHOUGH SOME YOUNG CHILDREN MAY HAVE BEEN BORN IN IRAN. REFUGEES UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR SETTLE-MENT IN U.S. HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND SELECTED BY KURDISH COMMUNITIES IN IRAN. TO DATE, SOME 350 PERSONS HAVE BEEN REGISTERED, AND NECESSARY PROCESSING
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SUCH AS REGISTRATION, BACKGROUND CHECKS HAVE BEEN

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INITIATED OR COMPLETED. THEY WILL UNDERGO MEDICAL
EXAMINATIONS BEFORE THEY DEPART FOR FRANKFURT.
TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES MAY BE 600-700.

3. REFUGEES ARE NOW HOUSED AT IRANIAN-GOVERNMENT
CONTROLLED CENTERS IN TEHRAN AND AT VARIOUS POINTS
IN IRAN. UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE IN TEHRAN IS REQUIRED
TO MAINTAIN LOW-PROFILE PRESENCE AND HAS NO FREE,
DIRECT ACCESS TO REFUGEES OUTSIDE TEHRAN WITHOUT
EXPRESS PERMISSION FROM IRANIAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS
SENSITIVE TO ENTIRE KURDISH REFUGEE ISSUE.

4. EACH KURD WILL TRAVEL ON LAISSEZ-PASSER WITH
INDEFINITE VALIDITY, ISSUED BY IRANIAN GOVERNMENT.
REFUGEES OUTHERWISE CANNNOT BE EXPECTED TO BE IN
POSSESSION OF CIVIL DOCUMENTS SUCH AS BIRTH CERTIFICATES,
MARRIAGE AND/OR DIVORCE CERTIFICATES, ADOPTION DECREES, ETC.
THIS IS BECAUSE KURDS ARE A NOMIADIC PEOPLE WHO DO NOT CONFORM TO
CIVIL PROCEDURES; IN ANY EVENT, THEY WOULD BE UNABLE TO
OBTAIN DOCUMENTS FROM IRAQI AUTHORITIES AT THIS TIME.
VISA OFFICER POINTED OUT THAT ALL VISA APPLICANTS ARE UNDER LAW
REQUIRED TO PRESENT SPECIFIED TYPES OF DOCUMENTS, AND THAT, WITH
RESPECT TO KURDS, CONSULAR OFFICER MUST BE SATISFIED THAT LEGAL
RELATIONSHIPS EXIST BETWEEN PRINCIPALS WHO ARE CONDITIONAL
ENTRANTS AND THEIR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN WHO ARE VISA APPLICANTS,
SINCE COMMON LAW RELATIONSHIPS ARE NOT RECOGNIZED FOR IMMIGRATION
PURPOSES. IT WAS CONSENSUS OF ALL PRESENT AT MEETING THAT
REFUGEES WILL BE UNABLE TO MEET DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS AND THAT
CONSULAR OFFICER WILL HAVE TO WAIVE DOCUMENTS WITHIN HIS DISCRETION.
VISA OFFICER ADDED THAT RELATIVES OTHER THAN SPOUSE OR CHILD
(SON AND DAUGHTER UNDER 21), THAT
IS, PARENTS, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, IN-LAWS, ETC. MUST BE TREATED
AS PRINCIPALS.

5. UNHCR REPRESENTATIVES STATED IRANIAN GOVERNMENT IS UNLIKELY
TO ISSUE CERTIFICATE OF GOOD CONDUCT FOR REFUGEES, EITHER
COLLECTIVELY OR INDIVIDUALLY. INSTEAD, IT MAY ISSUE LAISSEZ-
PASSERS ONLY TO THOSE KURDS WHO HAVE NO DEROGATORY RECORD AND
ARE ACCEPTABLE FOR READMISSION INTO IRAN IF NOT PERMITTED TO
RESETTLE IN U.S.
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6. FIRST GROUP OF 50 KURDS WILL ARRIVE IN
FRANKFURT O/A APRIL 18 AND WILL BE HOUSED IN HOTEL APPROX-
40 MILES FROM FRANKFURT. ICEM TAKES CHARGE OF THIS PHASE OF
KURDISH MOVEMENT, AND UNHCR LIAISON OFFICIAL WILL STAY AT HOTEL
DURING PROCESSING PROGRAM HERE.

7. VISA OFFICER EXPLAINED GENERAL MECHANICS OF VISA PROCESSING

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FROM THE TIME OF CERTIFICATION BY INS OF ELIGIBLE SPOUSES
AND CHILDREN TO VISA ISSUANCE POINTING OUT THAT, IN VIEW OF
DEPARTMENTS GUIDANCE CONTAINED IN DEPTEL 075038, THERE WILL BE
LAG TIME OF THREE TO FOUR WORKING DAYS BETWEEN RECEIPT OF INS
NOTIFICATION AND VISA INTERVIEW-ISSUANCE.
TOTAL PROCESSING TIME IN FRANKFURT FOR GROUP OF 50 REFUGEES WILL
THUS EXTEND TO ABOUT 10 CALENDAR DAYS, INSTEAD FOUR TO FIVE DAYS AS
PLANNED BY ICEM REPRESENTATIVE. THIS SITUATION NOT ONLY WILL INCREASE

ACCOMMODATIONS EXPENSES IN FRANKFURT FOR EACH GROUP, BUT ALSO WILL
PROLONG TOTAL KURDISH REFUGEE MOVEMENT PROGRAM, PARTICULARLY
SINCEFRG AUTHORITIES HAVE
STIPULATED THAT GROUPS OF KURDS ARRIVING IN GERMANY SHALL NOT
OVERLAP.

8. A LIST OF 350 NAMES RECEIVED TO DATE INDICATES APPROX-
190 (55 PERCENT) ARE PRINCIPALS AND 160 (45 PERCENT) ARE SPOUSES
AND CHILDREN. NOTE: AN ADDITIONAL LIST OF 50 NAMES HAS BEEN
RECEIVED, CHANGING PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN ONLY SLIGHTLY.

9. VISA OFFICER SUGGESTED THAT AS MUCH OF NECESSARY CLERICAL WORK
AS POSSIBLE, INCLUDING PREPARATION OF FS-510, SHOULD BE DONE DEFORE
REFUGEES DEPART IRAN, IN ORDER THAT REFUGEES BE ABLE TO MOVE
ONWARD TO U.S. AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.
AMOUNT OF PAPERWORK PLUS LANGUAGE BARRIER COULD UNNECESSARILY
STRETCH PROCESSING TIME BEYOND VISA NUMBER REQUEST TIME. UNHCR
OFFICIAL IN TEHRAN WILL EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING SPOUSES
AND CHILDREN COMPLETE FS-510 AT TIME OF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS IN IRAN.

10. ICEM WILL COVER VISA FEE, FOR WHICH REFUGEES WILL SIGN
PROMISORY NOTE.

11. FYI: INS FRANKFURT ADVISES THAT MAXIMUM CONDITIONAL ENTRANT
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NUMBERS AVAILABLE FOR KURDS:
APRIL (30); MAY (40); AND JUNE (40). THIS WILL LIMIT TO ONE
KURDISH GROUP ARRIVING EACH MONTH THROUGH JUNE.

12. FOR DEPARTMENT: IT HAS COME TO LIGHT THAT SOME 20 ASSYRIANS
RPT ASSYRIANS WILL COME TO FRANKFURT WITH KURDISH REFUGEES.
CAN ASSYRIAN SPOUSES AND CHILDREN BE PROCESSED UNDER
NONPREFERENCE CATEGORY, SAME AS KURDS?
PLEASE ADVISE.

13. FOR TEHRAN: EMBASSYS COMMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED ON
PARAGRAPHS 4, 5 AND ANY PERTINENT KURDISH CONDITIONS AND
CIRCUMSTANCES THAT WOULD AFFECT VISA PROCESSING. LEHMANN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, MEETING REPORTS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976FRANKF02618
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760131-0573
From: FRANKFURT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760489/aaaacxqh.tel
Line Count: 167
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION VO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <18 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

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04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REFUGEES FROM USSR AND KURDISH REFUGEE PROGRAM
TAGS: CVIS, SREF, GE, UNHCR, ICEM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006